

WHIP 3 - PERENNIAL FOOD PLOT

FOTG Practice Code 645

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish a vegetative cover of native forbs or legumes that will provide wildlife food benefits.

B. PROGRAM POLICY

Apply this practice to establish permanent wildlife habitat on cropland, pasture/hay land, woodland openings, or idle grassy areas.

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

D. COST-SHARE POLICY

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). This practice shall be cost shared at a rate to meet the minimal needs of the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

Eligible Components

Minerals
Eligible Seed
Cover Crop Establishment
Seedbed Preparation
Seeding
Herbicide Application

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (a) determined needed until required seeds or plant stock is available; (b) needed because normal planting period for the species has passed and erosion problems may occur; and (c) needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue that will not allow establishment of cover immediately.

E. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for this practice.

1. Each perennial food plot shall not be less than 1/4 acre nor more than 3.0 acres in size.

2. The maximum acreage allowed for perennial food plots in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan shall not exceed 10 percent of the open land acres in the treatment unit.
3. The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the long-term contract.
4. Herbicides used in performing the practice must be:
 - a. Federally, State, and locally registered.
 - b. Applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
5. A current soil test is required for all permanent herbaceous plantings. Lime and fertilizer are NOT required for trees, shrubs, or temporary cover.

F. PLANTING TIMESPAN

Planting or sowing after the WHIP Long-Term Contract is approved by the NRCS Contracting Officer (Area Conservationist) shall be completed as scheduled in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan unless the producer can provide acceptable documentation that seed stock is not available.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resource and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations when establishing this practice. A TN-CPA-25 must be completed for each WHDP.

H. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

The practice shall be maintained without additional Federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice. Cost share shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

1. Participant destroys the cover during its lifespan; or
2. Cover fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

I. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

J. SPECIFICATIONS

Approved Cover Substitutions of plant species may be allowed subject to prior approval by the WHIP Program Leader or State Biologist.

Requirements Temporary cover is authorized.

A current soil test is required for all permanent Herbaceous plantings. Lime and fertilizer are NOT required for trees, shrubs, or temporary cover.

Seedbed For conventionally planted materials, a firm seedbed preparation is recommended. Prepare by plowing and disking (or harrowing) and allowed to settle. Prescribed burning (WHIP 10) may be used as a component for site preparation.

Herbicides Apply herbicides in accordance with the label for tame grass eradication or when the no-till method of planting is used.

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Reseeding Soybean	20.0 lbs.	Apr. 15-June 15
Illinois Bundleflower	12.0 lbs.	Apr. 1-June 1
Kobe Lespedeza	20.0 lbs.	Apr. 15-June 15
Korean Lespedeza	20.0 lbs.	Apr. 15-June 15
Partridge Pea	12.0 lbs.	Apr. 1-June 1

Dry Site Mixture

Red Clover	7.0 lbs.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Chicory	2.0 lbs.	Aug. 15-Oct. 1
Crimson Clover (Temporary Cover)	5.0 lbs.	
Winter Wheat (Temporary Cover)	25.0 lbs.	

Moist Site Mixture

Ladino Clover	4.0 lbs.	Feb. 20-Apr. 1
Alsike Clover	5.0 lbs.	Aug. 15-Apr. 1
Berseem Clover (Temporary Cover)	5.0 lbs.	
Winter Wheat (Temporary Cover)	25.0 lbs.	